

Robert T. Matsui

Congressman
Fifth District, California



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CONTACT: CODY HARRIS
(202) 225-7163/(202) 225-0564

MATSUI MEETS WITH FORMER ENRON EMPLOYEES TO DISCUSS SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

Employees say Enron should throw up a "red flag" on Social Security privatization

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today Representative Robert Matsui (D-CA), the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, met with two former Enron employees to discuss the role that Social Security plays in their retirement. Dary Ebright and Deborah Perrotta watched their 401(k) plans plummet in value as Enron stock became worthless. Now, one of the only sources of retirement income they can count on is the defined benefit of Social Security.

"I have to say how lucky I feel that I still have Social Security," said Mr. Ebright. "Congress should do what it takes to make sure that workers continue to get the guaranteed benefits of Social Security."

"The privatization of Social Security would be a huge mistake," said Ms. Perrotta. "Just like Enron, there is no telling what could happen to Social Security benefits if they were dependent on the ups and downs of the market."

Ebright watched his investment in Enron fall by 99% within less than a year. Ms. Perrotta lost \$40,000 almost overnight.

"What happened to these workers is almost unimaginable," said Matsui. "It reinforces the fact that defined benefit plans have an invaluable role to play in retirement security. We should resist plans to turn Social Security into another 401(k) plan. There is just too much at stake. Without Social Security, what would Mr. Ebright and Ms. Perrotta have to rely on for a stable retirement income?"

"No one is saying that these workers were wrong to invest in their 401(k) plans," continued Matsui. "The issue is whether or not it is worth it to maintain Social Security as the one leg of retirement planning that is guaranteed and not subject to risks, mistakes, or bad advice. I believe very strongly that it is worth it. And if anyone doubts it, they should sit down and talk with Mr. Ebright and Ms. Perrotta."

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